--- “Series of 1881”- Montreal Division M 3 - Cigar Strips - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- lithographed in GREEN on horizontal mesh wove - 465 x 25 mm. ---

--- RG-127 - *coarse roulette* - 4 mm. blue controls - scanned at 35% scale ---

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3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) John McKay records 10,000 *lithographed* “Long Green Cigars” as delivered. Lee Brandom only lists the Montreal Division green strip.

the highest control numbering on the lithographed “Series of1881” GREEN cigar strip, as recorded to date, is:

Montreal Division M 3	- **6543**
overprinted with **FIFTY CIGARS.**	- **0913**
	7,453

Only 10,000 green copies were lithographed for the Montreal Division, and none of the copies of **RG-127**, seen to date, were used. I presume that they were control numbered in a single batch, and that the provisional overprint for **50 CIGARS.** was made using the initial **0001** to **1000** control-numbered strips. Leading up to the “Series of 1883”, it is likely that they were a *provisional issue* for the 1883 fifty cigar strip. Just judging by the date on the back of **RG-127n** (September 28th 1882) they were practically obsolete when issued.

The catalogue lists the lithographed “Series of 1881” Montreal Division green cigar stamp as follows:

RG-127 - Cigars, Montreal M 3, green, coarse roulette, on unwatermarked wove, with 4 mm. blue controls
RG-194 - RG-127 overprinted at the left with a 64 x 10 mm. Roman **FIFTY CIGARS.** plus an 8½ mm. **50** on the right end

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★**RG-127** - Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, control number **6484**, on horizontal mesh wove

6474	RG-127	Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, horizontal mesh wove
6483	RG-127	Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, horizontal mesh wove
6484★	RG-127	Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, horizontal mesh wove
6495	RG-127	Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, horizontal mesh wove
6511	RG-127	Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, horizontal mesh wove
6543	RG-127	Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, coarse roulette, horizontal mesh wove

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★**RG-127n** - Cigars, Montreal Division M 3, green, imperforate, without control numbering, on horizontal mesh wove, manuscript dated in ink *28 / 9 / 82* in September 28th 1882 - on the back of the strip

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Leading up to the “Series of 1883”, a batch of the preceding stamps were overprinted for use on 50 cigar boxes. It is likely that the overprint was a *provisional* preceding the 1883 fifty cigar strip.

★**RG-194** - Cigars, Montreal M 3, green, coarse roulette, on horizontal mesh wove, control number **0913**, overprinted at the left with a 64 x 10 mm. Roman **FIFTY CIGARS.** plus an 8½ mm. **50** on the right end, roller cancelled **CIGARS / 5-17**

0913★	RG-194	**RG-127** overprinted at the left with a 67 x 10 mm. Roman **FIFTY CIGARS.** plus an 8½ mm. **50** on the right end

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File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RG_STAMPS \ 1881 \ Green \ Montreal - M 3],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
October 8th 2013 - JBH